

## LESSON 9

### SHIP-TO-SHORE MOVEMENT AND THE AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT

*However, you can rest assured that when we start for the beach we shall stay there, either dead or alive, and if alive, we will not surrender. When I have made everyone else share this opinion, as I shall certainly do before we start, I shall have complete confidence in the success of the operation.*

-- General George S. Patton, 3 Oct. 1942,  
Response to an inquiry on his confidence  
in the Operation *Torch* landing

#### Introduction

Purpose	The purpose of this lesson is to provide an overview of ship-to-shore movement and the amphibious assault.
Why Study Ship-to-Shore Movement and the Amphibious Assault?	<p>The final phase of an amphibious operation, the assault phase, is perhaps the most complicated.</p> <p>These concepts are the subject of a follow-on lesson in which the focus will shift to future amphibious power projection that is expected to influence the size and shape of the Marine Corps for the next century.</p>
Relationship to Other Instruction	<p>This lesson addresses current joint doctrine pertaining to the fundamentals of the fifth and final phase of an amphibious operation. It serves as a transition from the analysis of existing and traditional amphibious doctrine and planning processes to the analysis of emerging concepts regarding future roles, missions, and capabilities for executing amphibious operations.</p> <p>It is intended to expand your knowledge of amphibious operations and to provide you with a springboard into analysis of emerging operational concepts.</p>
Study Time	This lesson, including the issues for consideration, will require about 4 hours of study.

## Educational Objectives

Joint Doctrine      Explain current joint doctrine concerning the assault phase of an amphibious assault operation. [JPME Area 2(a)]

Planning  
Considerations      Summarize the planning considerations for ship-to-shore movement and amphibious assault operations. [JPME Area 3(a)]

JPME Areas/      2/a/1.0

Objectives/Hour      3/a/1.0

s (accounting  
data)

## Discussion

Amphibious Operations	<p>The amphibious assault is considered to be the most complex military operation. The natural complexity of amphibious operations and the inherent vulnerability of forces engaged in these operations necessarily require an exceptional degree of unity of effort, operational coherence, and detailed planning and coordination.</p>
Assault Phase	<p>As related earlier, the final phase of an amphibious operation, the assault phase, is perhaps the most complicated. It requires CATF and CLF to exercise clear and unambiguous authority over assigned, attached, and supporting forces.</p> <p>The CATF and CLF must gain and maintain keen situational awareness to respond instantly with on-call responses to the unforeseen contingencies that invariably occur. This in itself requires extensive and detailed planning backed up by the best command, control, communications, and intelligence means available for commanders to exercise on-scene command and control during the execution of the actual assault.</p> <p>The assault phase is the period between the arrival of the major assault forces of the amphibious task force (ATF) in the objective area and the accomplishment of the ATF mission.</p>
Ship-to-Shore Movement	<p>This phase includes ship-to-shore movement. Although ship-to-shore movement is only one part of the assault phase, it is the most critical part for several reasons. During this period, the landing force and assault shipping are most concentrated. Troops, whether transported by surface craft, LCAC, AAV, or helicopter, are particularly vulnerable to enemy fire of all types. Movement control requirements are complex and must be coordinated precisely with the fires of supporting arms.</p> <p>Finally, the natural hazards of weather, sea, and surf conditions must be overcome. For these reasons, ship-to-shore movement warrants and receives extensive consideration in this lesson.</p>

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## Discussion, Continued

Planning and Execution	<p>The planning and execution of the actual amphibious assault has changed little since its refinement in the final stages of World War II. Technological innovations, such as the advent of the helicopter and air-cushioned landing craft, have given commanders a significantly greater degree of operational and tactical flexibility, but the basic concept of the amphibious assault has remained virtually the same. It is this concept in which Marine Air-Ground Task Forces (MAGTFs) are trained and which they are prepared to execute in support of the joint and multinational campaign.</p>
Contributions to National Strategy	<p>That said, we are on the verge of a major transition in how we project power ashore from the sea. In 1994, the Secretary of the Navy, CNO, and CMC published a concept document entitled <i>Forward From the Sea</i> that addressed the five broad naval contributions to national strategy.</p> <p>Central to this paper is the concept of Operational Maneuver From the Sea (OMFTS), the application of maneuver warfare to amphibious operations. OMFTS describes how American naval forces will fight and control the littorals <u>in the future</u>. It provides the basis for contemporary Marine Corps combat development decisions and the continued development of the OMFTS to implement the concept of Ship-to-Objective (vice ship-to-shore) Maneuver (STOM).</p>

## Required Readings

### *Joint Pub Readings*

Joint Pub 3-02, *Joint Doctrine for Amphibious Operations*, Chapters IX and XV. Find this reading in the *Joint Pub Readings* Vol. II (8800), pp. 507 to 509 and pp. 551 to 558. The plan for ship-to-shore movement ensures that the landing of troops, equipment, and supplies occurs at the prescribed times and places and in the formation required by the LF scheme of maneuver ashore.

Joint Pub 3-02.1, *Joint Doctrine for Landing Force Operations*, Chapters VI and XVI. Find this reading in the *Joint Pub Readings* Vol. II (8800), pp. 653 to 701 and pp. 797 to 804. The ship-to-shore phase of an amphibious landing is the most critical and therefore deserves separate and detailed considerations.

## For Further Study

**Supplemental Readings**      The readings listed are **not** required. They are provided as recommended sources of additional information about topics in this lesson that may interest you. They will increase your knowledge and augment your understanding of this lesson.

NDP 1, *Naval Warfare*.

MCWP 0-1, *Marine Corps Operations* (Draft).

FMFM 1-7, *Supporting Arms in Amphibious Operations*.

FMFM 1-8/NWP 22-3, *Ship-to-Shore Movement*.

FMFM 14-7, *Ground Combat Operations*.

FMFRP 14-7, *Over-the Horizon (OTH) Amphibious Operations (Operational Concept)*.

AJP-1(a), *Allied Joint Operations Doctrine* (NATO).

ATP 8, *Doctrine for Amphibious Operations* (NATO).

## Issues for Consideration

Planning Considerations	Describe the major planning considerations for the ship-to-shore movement of the landing force.
CATF/CLF Relationship	What is the CATF/CLF relationship concerning actual control of the ship-to-shore movement during the assault phase?
Activities	What activities are encompassed by the assault phase of an amphibious operation?